

CHARLESTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT



CasPeR the CPR Dog Donated to CFD

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Charleston, SC (02/04/2015): The Charleston Fire Department is now better equipped to train first responders to perform pet CPR with the donation of two specially designed pet mannequins. The mannequins were donated by Invisible Fence Brand and Bees Ferry Animal Hospital.

All CFD apparatus are currently equipped with animal CPR masks which can be used on pets in the event of a fire or emergency. These mannequins will allow the members of the department to obtain additional training in life-saving measures for pets.

“Although the number of pets that die in fires is not an official statistic, it is estimated that thousands of pets die each year in home fires; most succumbing to smoke inhalation.” said Charleston Fire Department EMS Manager Brett Huntley. “The donation of these specially designed and potentially lifesaving products enables firefighters to have the tools and training to attend to an animal in distress. With the addition of the CaSpeR mannequins, we can improve our training using the masks and initiating animal CPR.”



This donation is part of Invisible Fence Brand's *Project Breathe*, which was established with the goal of equipping fire stations with pet oxygen masks. Nationally, the Invisible Fence Brand has donated more than 10,000 pet oxygen masks of various sizes to fire departments all over the U.S. and Canada, including a donation several years ago to the Charleston Fire Department. Local Invisible Fence Brand Dealers have expanded their donation efforts to include CasPeR, the CPR dog.

For many of us, our pets are a valuable member of our family. Here are some tips to keep pets safe from home fires:

- Ensure your pet is not left unattended around an open flame and make sure to extinguish any open flame before leaving your home.
- Keep pets near entrances and exits. When leaving pets home alone, it is important to keep them in an area near entrances where firefighters can find them.
- Practice family escape plans with all members of your family. While practicing home fire drills, be sure to discuss who is responsible for evacuating pets from a home. This member of the family should be an adult and should only evacuate pets if it is safe to do so.

Remember, the safety of you and your family comes first, never re-enter a fire for any reason.

- Consider installing monitored smoke alarms in your home which can alert the fire department in the event of an unwanted fire. Monitored smoke alarms can be critical in providing a prompt response to an unwanted fire in the event you are not home.
- If you have a fire, inform first responders when they arrive if any pets are in the home and where they may be located. Firefighters will make every attempt to rescue pets and animals in emergency situations if it is safe to do so.

If you would like to learn more information on pet oxygen masks or CasPeR the CPR dog, please contact CFD Community Educator Ryan Kunitzer at (843)958-6401 or kunitzerr@charleston-sc.gov or contact Philip Howard, Invisible Fence South Program Coordinator, at (704)409-3973 or philip.howard@invisiblefencesouth.com.

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